



News Release

WISCONSIN ARMY AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Public Affairs Office
2400 Wright Street
Madison, WI 53704

Contact: Lt. Col. Tim Donovan
608-242-3050
Cell: 608-516-1777

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

At year-end more than 7,500 National Guard soldiers and airmen available in Wisconsin

As the year 2005 draws to a close with nearly 2,000 members of the Wisconsin National Guard serving on active duty, there are still about 7,520 troops who are readily accessible in the event of state emergencies or to support homeland defense or security missions.

The Wisconsin Guard has been actively involved in the global war on terror since the morning of September 11, 2001. Since that time, about 70 percent of the Guard's soldiers and airmen have served on active duty either at home or overseas. Most of these 6,650-plus soldiers and airmen have completed their active duty missions and are back in Wisconsin serving with their Army and Air National Guard units.

Wisconsin's available resources include the National Guard's 500-soldier Rapid Reaction Force, which is capable of responding on short notice anywhere in Wisconsin with an initial force of 125 soldiers, and 375 additional soldiers available within 24 hours to sustain operations as long as required.

Wisconsin also has a special unit whose 22 highly skilled, full-time members of the Army and Air National Guard are federally resourced, trained and evaluated, but fall under the command and control of the governor of Wisconsin. The 54th Civil Support Team is designed to deploy rapidly to assist local first responders in determining the nature of a weapons of mass destruction incident, provide medical and technical advice, and pave the way for the identification and arrival of follow-on state and federal response assets.

With the return earlier this month of the 1158th Transportation Company, there are now about 1,950 serving on active duty for federal missions. Of those, about 1,750 are currently deployed overseas. The Guard's remaining soldiers and airmen are available in Wisconsin and are fully capable of responding to homeland security or defense missions anywhere in the state.

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